A Bit of Sentiment.

A couple of weeks ago Benjamin B. Margan, 83 years old, and Julia A. Margan, 79 years old, of Chicago, were reunited in marriage after being separated for twenty-five years.

"We made a mistake in getting divorced, and I knew it twenty-five years ago," said the husband, "but my pride wouldn't let me admit I was wrong."

What a commentary on foolish pride. A husband stands on his supposed dignity and for over the third of the span of man's natural life refuses to speak the words that he no doubt wanted to speak all the time.

The wife nurses her sense of injury and sees herself grow old and her children advance to middle age without saying the little word that would perhaps have brought about long years ago the happy consummation that was witnessed recently.

Was it worth the price? No. Foolish pride always exacts a price so tremendously disproportioned to its worth that the one who has indulged it seldom fails to look back upon that period of his life without wonder and regret.

There is a time for almost everything in this world a time for sowing and a time for harvest; a time for joy and for tears. But there is no rightful place for the indulgence of foolish pride.

Life is too short to shorten its all too brief span of happiness by hardening the heart against love and forgiveness. Affection is too precious to choke its fountains, even for the briefest season, with resentment. The skies are too vast and benignant, the stars too high and solemn, for us to imagine that our petty resentments have any worth.

What infinite tragedies people make of infinitely little things! Here are a man and a woman who love each other. A word would dissipate the filmy barriers created by a mistaken self-esteem. They will not speak, and the tragedy of embittered, aimless, barren lives begin.

Surely all the worth and dignity of character are his who speaks under these circumstances. Surely all the justifiable pride belongs to the one who sees the infinite littleness of pique and the infinite greatness of affection or friendship and will not remain silent.

Astounding Figures.

That the government at Washington has turned its attention to the problem of the drainage of swamp lands is shown by the fact that the United States geological survey has issued an official bulletin in which it is estimated that there are 70 million acres in the United States which are inunnated to a sufficient degree, and throughout a sufficient length of time every year, to destroy their usefulness as agricultural territory. It is also estimated that the value of these lands is from two to four billion dollars.

The members of the survey make no definite recommendations as to methods by which this vast potential wealth may be appropriated by the people; but at least they assume that the work can be done, and should oe done.

The swamp lands extend as far north as Iowa, and prevail over large territories all the way to the gulf, demanding a terrible tax from half a dozen states.

The problem of this waste land is one which touches the sanitary as well as the commercial interests of the people, whereas the problem of irrigation, which the government has gone into on a large scale, is confined chiefly to the field of material development.

The figures in themselves are extraordinary and should quicken interest in reclamation work. When the people of the Missouri and Mississippi valleys fully realize that 70 million acres may be added to the wealth of the country, it cannot be long until public sentiment will demand that the reclamation work take its part in the plans and achievements of the Government.

Aviation Casualties.

Within ten days recently six aviators have lost their lives. These casualties make a total of more than 50 during the last 18 months. Truly aviation exacts a terrible cost of human life.

It seems to make some difference whether aviation is indulged in as a sport, or as scientific demonstration. The larger number of deaths has occurred among amateurs who fly for sport. A French paper points out the fact that amateurs run greatest risks and frequently perform the most remarkable feats, whereas professionals are more cautious, and are seldom found in the record-breaking class. This view of the matter may be correct, as French papers have had better opportunity for observation than those in any other part of the world.

Yet whether this view is correct or not, it seems very probable that sooner or later aviation as a sport pure and simple will lose much of its fascination. Aviation is expensive, hazardous and exhausting. There are more nervous wrecks among aviators than in any other class of sportsmen. The novelty of the thing will probably wear away, and flying be made a scientific demonstration more completely than it now is

Revival of Spelling.

A little girl of 12 summers is the champion speller of Oklahoma. Think it over, you college men with a string of degrees flying after your name like the trail of a kite, you who always spell "which" with a "t" and pump an aspirate into "sure" after the "s." Nevertheless our spmpathies are with the college man who cannot spell and is rather proud of it. Correct spelling means simply a parrot-like memory and that is about all, for the spelling of English is the purest of idiocies. It is only by assault and battery that we make most of our written words harmonize with the spoken sounds. Chaucer couldn't spell as well as Josh Billings, and he is the great-grandfather of English literature. Neither could Shakespeare ever spell his name twice the same way, and he was a tolerably successful "best-seller" author. Sometime, perhaps, we may have a sane and safe system of spelling, efficient and harmonious, but in the meantime let the champion speller chase freak polysyllable words to their lair, while the ordinary mortal scratches his head everytime he has to choose between "able" and "ible" for word endings.

In Memoriam.

Mary Ann Scott was born in Washington county, Virginia, January 21, 1829, and died June 16, 1911, at the home of her son, Charles, near Forest City, Mo. The deceased came to Holt county in 1841.

In 1850 she was united in marriage to B. W. Evans. To this union were born six children, four sons and two daughters. The husband and two children preceded her to the better land; the four children surviving, being Ed J. and Charles E., of Forest City, Mo.; Mrs. R. A. Campbell, of Long Beach, Cal., and Mrs. H. J. Dillingham, of Plainview, Tex.; the two sons and last named daughter being at her bedside when the end came.

She was converted some fifty-six years ago, and united with the M. E. church, South, of which church she was a faithful and consistent member, until the time of her death.

The funeral services were conducted at the home of her son, by the Rev. C. H. Werner, of Hamburg, Ia., after which the tired, pain-racked body was laid to rest in Maple Grove cemetery, Oregon, Mo.

X. X. X.

—The W. F. M. S. of the M. E. church will meet with Mrs. Alice Kunz, today, Friday, July 7, at 2:30 p. m.

Bryant O. Cowan.

We are truly sorry to learn of the impaired health of Bryant O. Cowan, of Chicago, formerly of this county. In March he was stricken with nervous prostration, and taken to the

BRYANT O. COWAN.

Hot Springs, Ark., where he remained for several weeks, and returned to Chicago with little improvement noticeable. Since his return home, he has shown some improvement, but only in a slight degree. His relatives and friends in Holt hope sincerely that he may soon recover, and be in his normal health.

Mr. Cowan was born on a farm near Fillmore, Andrew county, January 2, 1852. After receiving a common school education, he attended the Wittenburg college, at Springfield, O., and afterwards graduated from Princeton. After graduating he went into the Short-horn cattle business with his father on the old homestead near New Point, taking three premiums at the World's Fair in Chicago. In 1901 he was elected secretary of the National Short-horn Breeders' association, the headquarters at that time being in Springfield The office was afterwards moved to Chicago, to which place he removad and has since resided.

In 1878 he was elected Representative, as a Democrat, defeating Adam Klippel, the Republican candidate, by 421 majority.

Apples.

The Missouri State Board of Agriculture has issued a bulletin in which we find the statement that the Missouri apple crop will be abundant this year.

This is welcome news at this particular time, when we are being frightened a little by reports of drought and other conditions which are a menace to the cereal crops.

The food value of the apple is small as compared with other products; but what it lacks in utility it makes up in other ways. The apple is almost if not quite the only thing in Nature which does not decrease in attractiveness to the individual who makes the journey from childhood to old age. A majority of adults find that they could dispense with the watermelon, or the peach, or other fruits which make a strong appeal to youth; but where is the adult who does not crave apples, down to the day of his death?

There is this serious point to consider, however, in connection with the statement that the Missouri apple is not to fail us this year. As yet nothing has been done to check the greedy schemes of those who control the supply and the prices of apples. Missouri, one of the banner apple States, is usually without apples, so far as the great public is concerned, because the supply is chucked into cold storages as soon as the harvest is gathered, and doled out in small quantities throughout the winter, in such a way that a prohibitive price may be obtained both early and late.

It is to be hoped that public sentiment will reach a point, this year, which will result in definite action sooner or later, to the end that the apple shall be the blessing it was meant to be.

—J. A. Goodhart and Charley Wright made a trip to St. Joseph last week and each bought a gasoline engine to do their washing. They both got tired of running the washer on wash days and concluded that the best way out of it was to provide a different power. Charley has his do the pumping also and J. A. has everything attached to his from the washing machine to the coffee mill.—Triumph Item in the Jeffersonian.

—We extend sympathy to Mrs. Chas. Koock, who, on Wednesday last, received the sad news by telegram announcing the death of her sister, Mrs. Helen Holtmeyer, at Washington, D. C., who was an accountant in the treasury department.

The War Fifty Years Ago

Military Activities Increase on Both Sides --- Federal Troops Cross Potomac, and Confederates Begin Massing at Manassas---Colonel Ellsworth's Assassination Stirs the North---Grant, an Obscure Ex-Captain of the Old Army, Makes Application For a Commission---His Wonderful Subsequent Career and His Character Analyzed---John C. Fremont Becomes a Major General, While Grant Acts as a Clerk---Butler Coins His Famous Phrase, "Contraband of War."

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.
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As the time of actual armed conflict drew near military activities on both sides increased. Troops were pouring daily into Washington and Richmond and were being massed at convenient points along the border. Both combatants were facing much the same difficulties. Each had to create an army and navy, organize the finances to meet the immense outlays of war and prepare to equip, feed and drill hundreds of thousands of fighting men. It was a supreme test for both, a test that in the end weakened the north and left the south exhausted.

The week ending May 27 saw the first definite movements of troops from the two capitals, 10,000 Federals crossing into Virginia and occupying Alexandria and Arlington and 5,000 Confederates concentrating at Manassas. These were the beginnings of the two armies that on July 21 fought the first battle of Bull Run. Other important developments of the week were the secession of North Carolina on May 21; the popular vote on secession in Virginia, May 22; the assassination of Colonel Ellsworth, May 24; the first application of Ulysses S. Grant for a command on the same date; the announcement on May 26 that in five days the mail service to the seceded states would be cut off; the Union uprising in western Virginia; the commissioning of John C. Fremont as major general and the appointment of General Irvin McDowell to head the army of the Potomac on May 27; also on that day the meeting of the border states convention. During this week General Butler took command at Fortress Monroe, pushed his troops forward to Newport News and refused to return fugitive slaves on the ground that they were "contraband of war." The campaign was now beginning to assume form on both sides

ULYSSES S. GRANT, WHO APPLIED FOR COMMISSION IN ARMY MAY 24, 1861.

Border States Retained.

The going out of North Carolina was not unexpected. While voting for the Union up to the firing on Fort Sumter and Lincoln's call for troops, these two events, as in the case of Virginia, turned her in a day. The boundaries of the Confederacy were now certainly defined. While the people of Tennessee did not formally ratify secession until later, it was admitted on all sides that she was out of the Union, making eleven seceded states in all. As for the border states, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri and the part of Virginia west of the mountains, the north had won her battle to hold them. During this very week the border states convention met at Frankfort with John J. Crittenden in the chair. Only Kentucky and Missouri were represented, but the preponderance of sentiment was distinctly for the Union. The people of western Virginia were already moving for separation from the Old Dominion, and General McClellan was preparing to throw his troops across the river from Ohio. As for Maryland, she had again become quiet, and troops were passing through Baltimore without molestation and were even being cheered.

There was still to be trouble in Missouri, including one campaign in the summer of 1861 and guerrilla warfare throughout the contest. During this very week, on May 22, a mob at St. Joseph tore down the stars and stripes.

While there was little of the spectacular in the holding of the border states, it counted for more to the north than the winning of many battles. Had Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri seceded, who can tell the outcome of the struggle?

Some of the more radical anti-slavery men at the north were disposed to criticise Mr. Lincoln for not taking a bolder stand against slavery in the beginning of the war. But Lincoln faced this very problem of the border states, and in the light of subsequent events history gives him full credit for having handled a difficult situation in a most prudent and statesmanlike manner.

On May 22 the people of Virginia voted on the ordinance of secession. While the poll was not heavy, it was strongly in favor of the proposition east of the mountains and as emphatically the other way in what is now West Virginia.

Union Troops Cross Potomac.

Immediately following this election the Union troops began to move forward all along the line, General Butler assuming command in the extreme east, General McClellan in the west, General Patterson with his Pennsylvania soldiers preparing to attack Harpers Ferry and the main body of troops, forming the Army of the Potomac, crossing the river from Washington. This movement started on the night of May 23, and the next day there were 10,000 boys in blue on the Virginia side of the river, chiefly at Alexandria and Arlington. General Sandford was first in command, issuing a proclamation to the people of Virginia, but on May 27 he was supplanted by General Irvin McDowell, who later was to fight in both of the battles of Bull Run and who was to retain command of the Army of the Potomac until supplanted by McClellan.

One tragic incident attended this transfer. Colonel E. Elmer Ellsworth with his 1,200 firemen zouaves was ordered to occupy Alexandria. Seeing a Confederate flag flying over the Marshall House, Ellsworth entered the hotel and asked a bystander whose flag it was. The man, who afterward turned out to be Jackson, the proprietor, said he did not know. Ellsworth thereupon mounted to the roof, took down the flag, wrapped it about his body and descended, only to be shot dead by Jackson, who was lurking in a dark corner of the hall. The assassin was instantly killed by one of the soldiers accompanying his colonel.

Ellsworth Hero of the Hour.

The deed sent a wave of grief and indignation over the north. Ellsworth became the hero of the hour. I suppose more babies were named for him than for any other national idol, except four or five of our greatest presidents and Henry Clay. Ellsworth was given an imposing funeral in New York city, and a regiment was made up in his honor, composed of one man from each town in the Empire State.

At the time of his death Colonel Ellsworth was twenty-four years old. He had aspired to West Point, but poverty prevented. Managing to procure an education, however, he studied law; but, military ardor getting the best of him, he organized a company of zouaves in Chicago and trained them to such efficiency that they gained prizes throughout the land. Ellsworth was an ardent supporter of Lincoln and accompanied him east. At this time he planned a reorganization of the militia. When the first call for troops came Ellsworth hastened to New York and organized his famous zouaves from the New York firemen.

In the excited state of the northern mind the romantic character of Ellsworth, his youth, his gallant deed and the manner of his death caught the popular imagination. Perhaps we are all sentimentalists at bottom, and this tragedy, like the firing on the flag at Sumter and the massacre of Massachusetts troops in Baltimore on the anniversary of the battle of Lexington, appealed to this latent sentiment.

JOHN C. FREMONT, MADE MAJOR-GENERAL MAY 27, 1861.

Grant Applies For Commission.

On the same day that Ellsworth was shot an unknown ex-army captain working in his father's leather store at Galena, Ill., applied to Secretary of War Cameron for a commission in the Union army. He modestly said he thought he could command a regiment, as he had fought already in the Mexican war and served in a Pacific post. Afterward he had resigned and farmed it for awhile, finally gravitating into the leather store because he had not made out on the farm he called "Hardscrabble." The name of this man was Ulysses S. Grant. He afterward got his commission through the influence of Representative Elihu B. Washburne. On this particular 24th of May poor Grant was serving as a sort of extra clerk in the outer office of the adjutant general of Illinois. He knew many things, but was stoop shouldered and almost shabby; hence was rated by his outward appearance rather than by any inward aptitude. God knew him, and perhaps in a dim way he knew himself.

To us Grant is known as the silent man. To his intimates in Galena before the outbreak of the war he was anything but silent. He could talk

GENERAL JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, FAMOUS CONFEDERATE LEADER, WHO ON MAY 17, 1861, TOOK COMMAND OF FORCES IN AND ABOUT HARPERS FERRY.

long and interestingly. Moreover, when he did give way to loquacity he had information and ideas to impart. As an instance, he once presided over a war meeting in Galena. Instead of indulging in the bombast and froth of the average speaker of the day, miscalled eloquence, Grant got down to brass tacks, talked about the actual hardships the soldiers would have to undergo, but still convinced them that it was worth while. Superficial people could not measure such a man, but history has measured him at least in part.

Years ago I met an old man who said that while on an Ohio river steamboat early in the war he had observed an army officer of striking appearance. The thing that distinguished him was the manner in which he closed his mouth. This friend, who was a rather keen observer of men, said he had never seen a man shut his mouth so hard. He was so struck that he inquired the officer's name and was told it was Grant, though it was not till years later that he identified him with the famous general.

Personally I cannot get over a peculiar feeling in regard to Grant, a feeling that I hold for no other Americans except Lincoln and Thomas Paine. I cannot explain it wholly, and yet I cannot argue it away. It is that Grant was a greater man than any of us have yet understood. I never saw him, was not impressed by his political associations and heard most of the derogatory things said about him a quarter of a century ago. Yet the feeling for him grew. It was at first vague, but with the passage of time has become more definite. It was that Grant truly belonged to the family of great souls; that he had a supreme work to do and did it. Grant's fame is of the stuff that will stand the acid test of centuries.

War is a stern winnower that separates human chaff from wheat. On May 24, 1861, Grant in the eyes of men was a nobody. Hundreds of thousands of his inferiors made more show and more noise. The war wind blew, and the fame of these went with it, but that of Grant remained. Grant never could make money, but neither could Lincoln, neither could most of the supremely great men in history.

Fremont Made Major General.

While Grant was trying for even a small chance to give his military experience to the country John C. Fremont, who had been the Republican candidate for president five years earlier, was appointed a major general. Great hopes were entertained for his future. He had been a notable engineer and explorer, the respected standard bearer of a new cause that later had succeeded, and he was the son-in-law of Thomas H. Benton. Yet Fremont's military service added little to his prestige. Truly war is a sifter of men.

This week saw little actual fighting, except a skirmish at Arlington between some New York troops and a few Confederates and a handful of prisoners taken at Alexandria. Yet it ended notably. On May 27 occurred a cluster of events of first class importance. That was the day on which Fremont's advancement was announced, likewise that on which definite news came that the western end of Virginia was determined to break away and on which the New York Herald named it "New Virginia." On that day Butler's men took Newport News and McDowell was made head of the Army of the Potomac. On that day the newspapers announced that the end o May would see the discontinuance southern mails. On that day the border states convention met. Most fateful of all, on that day came news that the Confederate troops were concentrating at Manassas.